

Comments on Phase III Sediment Investigation Field Report (Tierra Solutions, Inc., January 2017)

Newark Bay Study Area RI/FS

Date: 31 March 2017

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| Comment No. | Section | Page | Comment | Tierra Response |
|-------------|---------------|--|--|-----------------|
| 1 | Section 1.3 | PDF page 9, Page 4 of 5 | Please revise the paragraph that states that 231 Phase III sediment samples were to be collected to be consistent with the third note (***) below Table 2 in the QAPP Amendment (Tierra, September 2016). There appear to be inconsistencies in the sample count, e.g., 10 composites representing 51 (Phase III Field Report) or 46 (QAPP Amendment Rev. 2) grab samples. | |
| 2 | Section 2.3.1 | PDF page 14, Page 4 of 12 | Please clarify why Appendix B includes the field blank laboratory results for the Teflon liner, core liners, and core caps, while the decontamination of the processing equipment and ponar appear to have been excluded. | |
| 3 | Section 2.3.2 | PDF page 14, Page 4 of 12, first paragraph | Of the 231 planned sampling locations, 46 locations were to be ponar grab samples (refer to Table 7) and 185 locations were to be cores. Realizing that 11 coring locations were abandoned (refer to Table 3), the total number of sediment cores collected should be 174. Please clarify discrepancy, since the text indicates 173 cores were collected. | |
| 4 | Section 2.3.3 | PDF page 15, Page 5 of 12, first paragraph | According to Table 7, there were to be 46 ponar grabs. If 11 locations were abandoned and 7 cores were changed to ponar grabs, then the total number of grab samples should be 42. Please clarify the apparent discrepancy in the sample count, since the text states that 47 grabs were collected and 58 locations were planned. | |
| 5 | Table 2 | PDF page 10 | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Please consider removing the two notes underneath Table 2 (denoted by a single asterisk and a double asterisk). The QAPP Amendment was finalized and approved; therefore, the Field Report does not need to document decisions made during the planning phase.2. Add the three footnotes that are presented below Table 2 in the QAPP Amendment (Tierra, September 2016). | |
| 6 | Table 3 | PDF page 26 | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Please change header from "USEPA Approved Modified Sample Location" to "Actual Sample Location."2. Location 367 is listed in Table 3 as being moved, but this location is not listed in Appendix A, Protocol Modification No. 5. Please resolve discrepancy. | |
| 7 | Table 4 | PDF page 28 | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Please add a note that Location 390 was initially sampled on 24 October 2016 (per Appendix C) and resampled on 2 November 2016, due to recovery.2. Please mark locations that had less than 15 centimeters of sediment (particularly those cores collected and processed prior to the implementation of Protocol Modification No. 6). For these locations, please list the actual sampling depth.3. Please add a note for locations that were changed from a planned core to a grab sample (Locations 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 300, and 198). | |
| 8 | Table 8 | PDF page 40 | Please check sample processing dates in Table 8. Location 238 and Composite 05 were collected on 30 November 2016 and processed on 1 December 2016. Split samples were handed over to oversight field crew on 1 December 2016 per the Transfer Chain of Custody. | |
| 9 | Figure 2 | PDF page 43 | Please change legend (black/orange line) to read "Newark Bay Study Area Boundary" to be consistent with Figure 1 (and to be consistent with the Clam-Crab Data Report. | |
| 10 | Figure 3-6 | PDF pages 44-6 | Please change legend (black line) to read "Newark Bay Study Area Boundary" to be consistent with Figure 1. | |

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| 11 | Appendix A (General Comment) | PDF page 48 | Please add a Protocol Modification Form for the requested change in validation for PCB Congeners. | |
| 12 | Appendix A | PDF page 53 | 1. Please update title since Protocol Modification No. 5 addresses more than Locations 269, 332, and 372. 2. Please update figure references in Protocol Modification No. 5. | |
| 13 | Appendix B (General Comment) | PDF page 102 | Appendix B contains laboratory results for four field blanks (NB3151FB, NB3153FB, NB3156FB, and NB3158FB). Please add ‘fly sheets’ describing that NB3151FB represents rinsate from the Teflon liner and the other three field blanks represent rinsate from the core liners and core caps. | |
| 14 | Appendix C | PDF page 172 | Please add a note on PDF page 172 (Appendix C) that Location 390 (collected on 24 October) was superseded by the core collected on 2 November 2016. | |